A Hidden Treasure: The Highest Authority In The Classical Tradition

To the standard material on bone and muscle has been added a section dealing with the types of human physique: a section on anatomy from birth to old age, and on death; an orientation on racial anatomy; and an analysis of facial expression.

My Personal Review:
Copyright 1951? Wow, what a stimulating discovery, and what fun! Besides the skeletal and musculature illustrations, Atlas of Human Anatomy for the Artist is full of Peck’s own drawings of basic anatomical features. These are not just the final drawings, like the master prints in Hale, but the beginning rough sketches. I find this delightful because every beginner needs some inspirational guidance in drawings first steps. A simple rough sketch of a nose, with shading; or bones drawn as a simple hinge joint, an arm or leg.... Peck’s general reduction of the human figure to basic shapes is of inestimable help. The reader may just find himself saying, Hey, I can do THAT!!! And that is the wonderful thing about PECK’s book.

Peck has impeccable credentials and must be compared to Robert Beverly Hale. Peck’s is not merely an alternate duplication of the same material Hale covers. There is a personal touch in Peck; but the problem with any/all anatomy books, for beginners, is that they are simply intimidating, in their detail, their precision, their absolute realism. PECK overcomes this anatomical intimidation. I would venture that PECK ought to be included in at least the first several drawing books that one acquires. Sometimes it seems that several pages offer more practical instruction to a new student than entire chapters in the books coming out in recent years with gimmicky titles.

Atlas of Human Anatomy for the Artist, in combination with any beginning book on figure drawing is a must. With Famous Artists School, Willy Pogany, Walt Reed, Jack Hamm, Viktor Perard and similar instruction, any .................

book-buyer / beginning artist will find themselves advancing steadily. I rate this in the top 4 of figure drawing books for the beginner.
The chapter on Distinctions of Age, Sex, And Race is highly useful. PECK may be in danger of getting shoved aside with time and the publication of new pablum texts containing nothing new or vital; but PECK has written a timeless text that commands respect. CARPE DIEM [Seize the day!] I rate this book a very deserved 5 stars*

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